

JAMES MCCELL, JR., HOUSE
Route 12011, Approx. 75 feet east of
Locust Alley
Lockport Vicinity
Clinton County
Pennsylvania

HABS NO. PA-5543

HABS
PA
18-LOCKPT.V,
13-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Mid-Atlantic Region
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19108

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

JAMES MCGILL, JR., HOUSE

HABS No. PA-5543

HABS
PA
18-LOKPT.V,
13-

Location: Legislative Route 18011, approximately 75 feet east of Locust Alley, Upper Lockport, ~~Woodward Township~~, Clinton County, Pennsylvania
USGS Lock Haven Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator: 18.294460.4557370

Significance: The James McGill, Jr., House is significant as a contributing resource to a potential historic district in Upper Lockport. Previous studies indicate that an Upper Lockport historic district exists, although no eligibility determinations have been made nor boundaries set. The development of Upper Lockport follows a local pattern of agricultural land use yielding to residential subdivision in the wake of the development of the West Branch of the Pennsylvania Canal (1834-1889). Upper Lockport was subdivided circa 1860 by William White and termed "William White's Western Addition" to Lockport. Surviving housing which dates from the late-nineteenth century shares a similar vernacular character, and many houses feature Folk Victorian stylistic elements. The Upper Lockport area also provided housing for laborers who worked at the Widmann Brewery and the Queen's Run Brickworks, especially after the demise of the canal in 1889.

The James McGill, Jr., House contributes to the potential historic district in Upper Lockport as an intact example of a typical residential building in Upper Lockport in the late nineteenth century. Its vernacular character and Folk Victorian stylistic influences are shared by other buildings in the area. The original owner, James McGill, Jr., was a laborer at the Queen's Run Brickworks.

Description: The James McGill, Jr., House was originally a double pile, double-bay side-hallway type. Its primary entrance is located in the eastern, or front, facade. The foundation is covered with concrete and the exterior walls are sheathed with asphalt siding resembling brick. A one-story wood porch extends across the front facade. The porch exhibits decorative elements including turned posts and pilasters, brackets, and cut-out ornamentation in the porch roof ends. Stove chimneys are located at the rear of the first addition and on the east facade of the original building. The multi-gabled roof exhibits composition shingle roofing material. The house has two-over-two double-hung sash windows with simple wooden surrounds. Three additions have been made to the building: a two-story frame one-room addition to the rear of the original building, another two-story one-room addition half the width of the first addition and located at its rear, and a two-story enclosed porch on the west facade of the first addition. Remaining historic fabric includes a simple staircase with squared posts and newel post, historic single-leaf panelled doors, and hardware such as porcelain doorknobs. Door and window surrounds are simple planking with no ornamentation. Original plaster walls have been stuccoed or covered in panelling. Most ceilings have been dropped with acoustic ceiling tiles.

History:

In 1873, Peter Sheadle purchased two lots of White's Western Addition for \$200. The two lots were probably vacant at that time in view of the low purchase price and the negative evidence supported by historical atlases of the time. The present house, on half of one of the lots was probably not constructed until circa 1891, since its purchase price by Jennie and James McGill, Jr., a laborer at Queens Run Brickworks, was only \$60 in 1891 (for a half-lot). If there was a house on the property before the early 1890s, none of the occupants are noted in census records or in city directories records.

In 1919, the McGills conveyed the property to Helen Geise and her mother, Mary Schwab, for \$800. The property passed to Helen and William Geise, a paperworker, at Mary's death in 1929. The 1925 Lock Haven Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps show the property as it appears today. The Geises occupied the house during their ownership until 1982 when the property was conveyed to the Geises nephews, Dean B. and Leslie J. Williams. The Williams sold the property to Charles and Margaret Alley in 1983, who used the house as rental property. The present owner, Joseph Swope, a relation of Mary Schwab (the family name was later changed to Swope), acquired the house and property in the late 1980s.

Documentation of the James McGill, Jr., House was undertaken in October and November of 1991. The documentation serves as a mitigative measure for the treatment of historic properties that would be affected by a proposed Lock Haven flood protection project under the direction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Baltimore District.

Sources:

Clinton County Legal Records. Lock Haven, Pennsylvania.

Dashiell, David A. *Alley House*. Pennsylvania Historic Resource Survey Form 035-WW-057. Harrisburg, PA: Bureau of Historic Preservation, 1/1985.

Hannegan, Susan. *General History and Description of Clinton County, Preliminary Research Report, Clinton County Historic Sites Survey, 1985-86*. Harrisburg, PA: Bureau of Historic Preservation, 1986.

Lock Haven City Directories: 1885 through 1949. Located at the Ross Library, Lock Haven.

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Sanborn Map Company. *Fire Insurance Map of Lock Haven*. New York: Sanborn Map Company, 1925.

Vento, Frank J., Philip T. Fitzgibbons, Scott D. Heberling, and James Herbstritt. *Phase I Inventory Investigations of Potentially Significant Prehistoric and Historic Period Cultural Resources for the Lock Haven Flood Protection Project, Clinton County, Pennsylvania*. Prepared for

the Baltimore District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers by Vendel Enviro-Industrial Consultants, 1989.

Walling. *Map of Clinton County, PA.* New York: Way, Palmer & Co., 1862. Located at the Ross Library, Lock Haven.

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Architectural
Drawings:

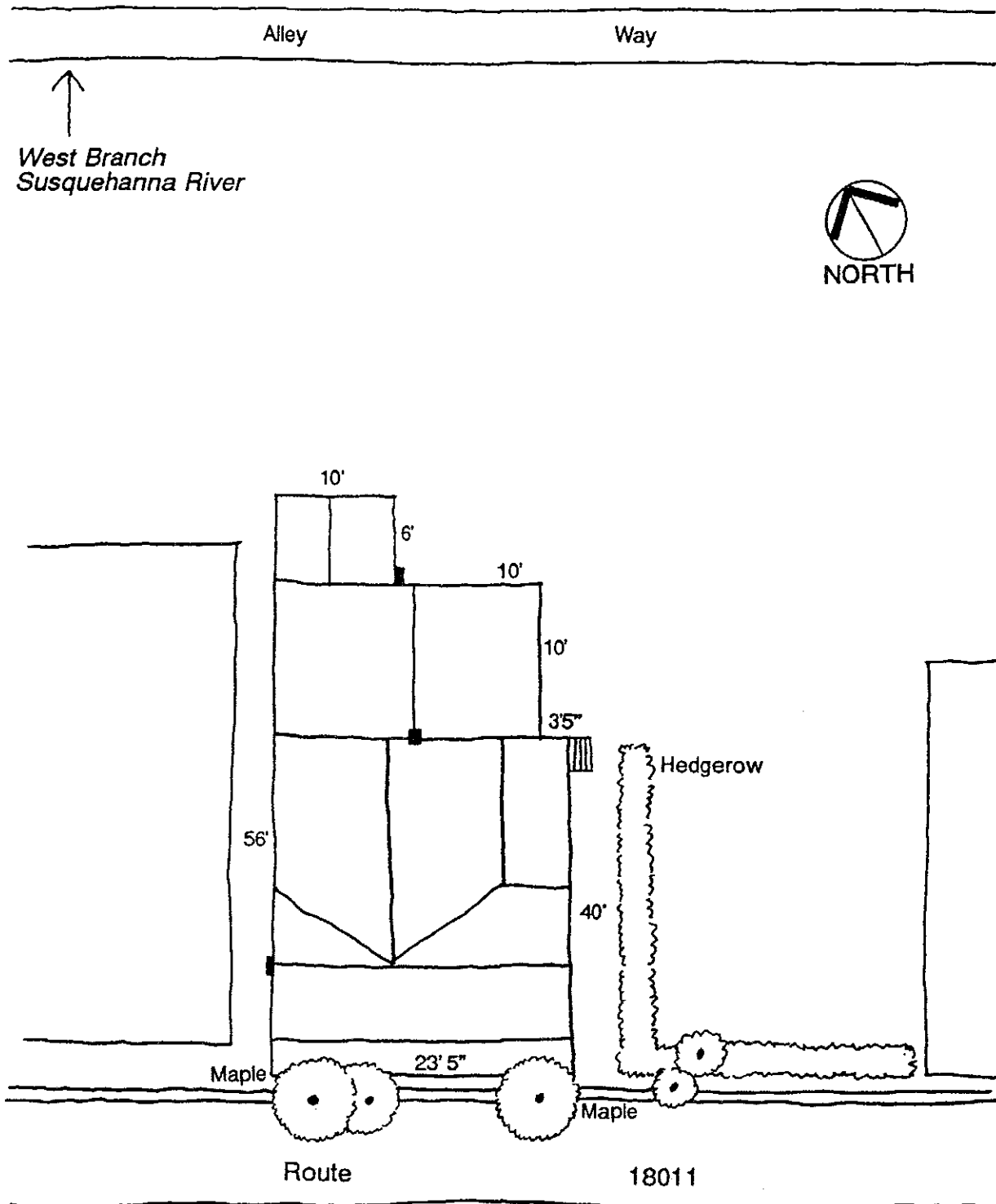
James McGill, Jr., House Site Plan. Drawn 1992 by Jill Cremer. Original drawing located at Kise Franks & Straw, Inc., 219 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19107.

James McGill, Jr., House First Floor Plan. Drawn 1992 by Jill Cremer. Original drawing located at Kise Franks & Straw, Inc., 219 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19107.

James McGill, Jr., House Second Floor Plan. Drawn 1992 by Jill Cremer. Original drawing located at Kise Franks & Straw, Inc., 219 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19107.

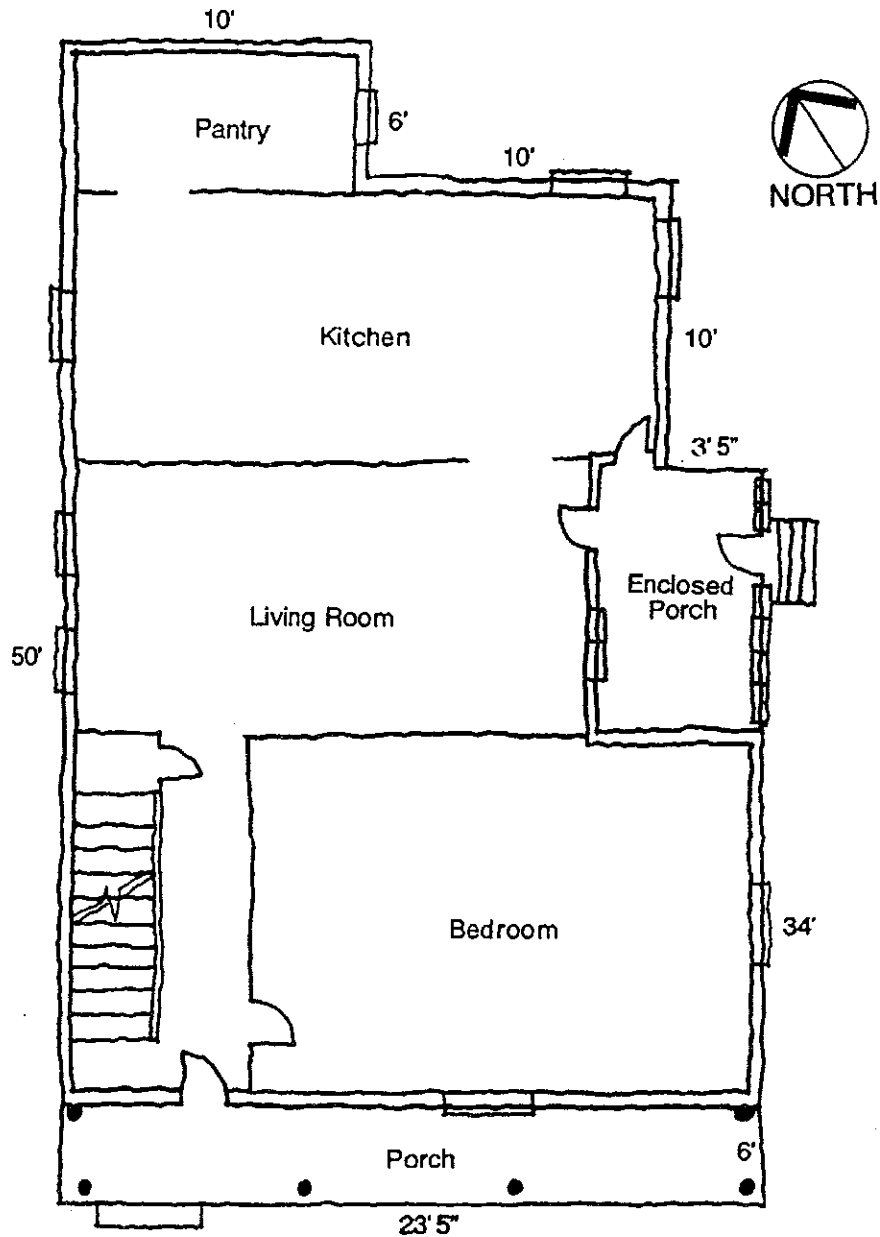
Historians:

Martin B. Abbot and Susan C. Nabors
Kise Franks & Straw
Fall 1991



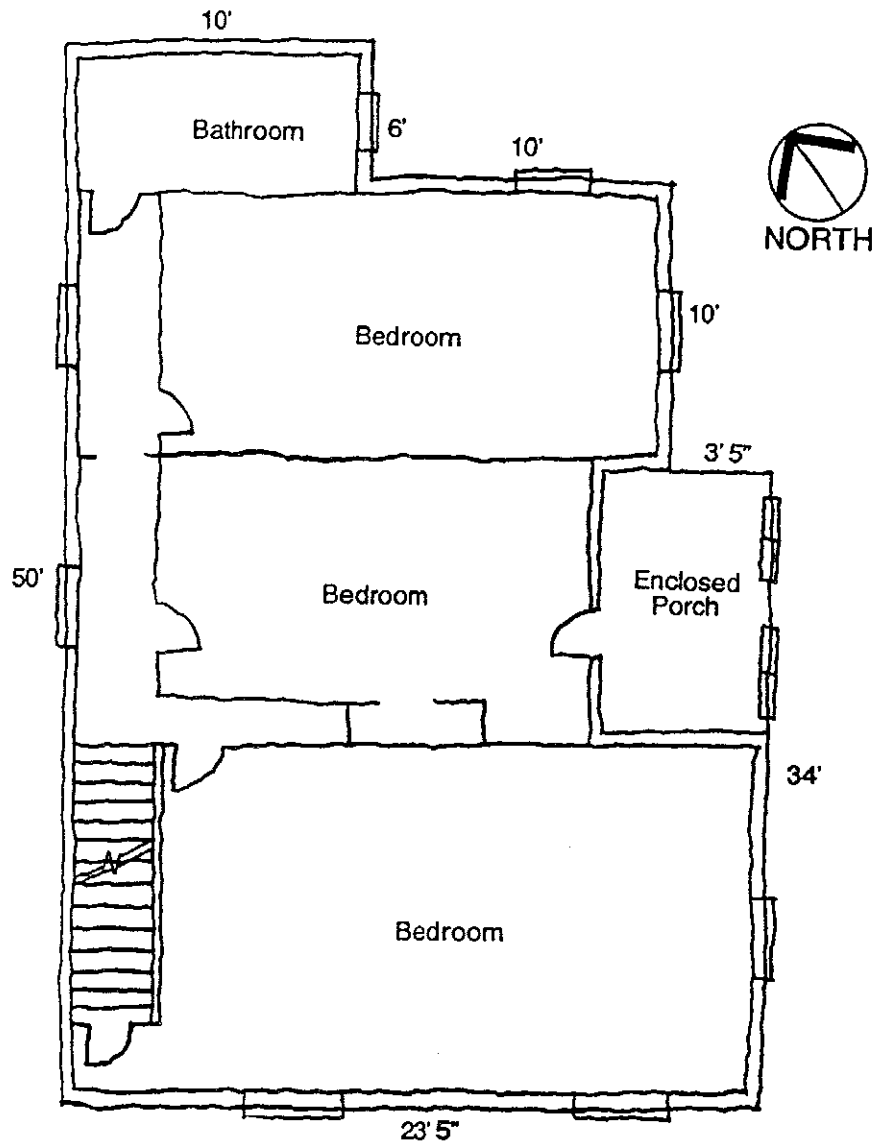
Site Plan
(Not to Scale)

Date Drawn: 1992
Prepared By: Jill Cremer



First Floor Plan
(Not to Scale)

Date Drawn: 1992
Prepared By: Jill Cremer



Second Floor Plan
(Not to Scale)

Date Drawn: 1992
Prepared By: Jill Cremer